

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7993

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

USMISSION NATO

USIA WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE

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TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, CY, GR

SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS TREATMENT OF CYPRUS DEVELOPMENTS

REF: ANKARA 1253

1. CYPRUS-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS DOMINATED THE TURKISH MEDIA SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 15). FRONT PAGE HEADLINES DEALT WITH REACTION--BOTH TURKISH AND FOREIGN--TO THE UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF A TURKISH CYPRIOT STATE AND WITH A STATEMENT TO REPORTERS FRIDAY BY PRIME MINISTER SADI IRMAK THAT TURKEY IS FREE TO CANCEL BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE U.S. IN LIGHT OF THE AID CUOFF. ACCORDING TO MILLIYET'S REPORT, IRMAK SAID: "IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO US TO TAKE THE ISSUE OF AID TO THE NATO MINISTERIAL COUNCIL, BECAUSE NATO IS AUTOMTICALLY INTERESTED BECAUSE

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WE FORM THE BACKBONE OF NATO IN THE SOUTHEAST. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT

WE MIGHT CANCEL THE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS."

2. SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STATEMENT REGRETTING THE TURKISH CYPRIOT DELCARATION WAS PLAYED ON MOST FRONT PAGES AND CONSERVATIVE TERCUMAN GAVE THE STORY BANNER HEADLINE TREATMENT. STATEMENTS BY KARAMANLIS AND MAKARIOS WERE ALSO WIDELY PLAYED, AS WAS A DECLARATION BY AIR FORCE CHIEF EMIN ALPKAYA THAT, DESPITE THE AID CUTOFF, TURKEY WAS PREPARED "TO FIGHT FOR THE SAKE OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY." ALPKAYA'S REMARKS WERE MADE AT CEREMONIES MARKING THE HIGHLY PUBLICIZED RECEIPT FROM ITALY OF 18 F-104 AIRCRAFT. SEVERAL PAPERS, INCLUDING MILLIYET IN A FRONT PAGE STORY, REPORTED A TASS STATEMENT THAT THE USSR CONTINUED TO RECOGNIZE THE MAKARIOS GOVERNMENT AS THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAND.

3. IN ADDITION TO THESE STORIES, SEVERAL PAPERS GAVE MODERATE PLAY TO REPORTS OF FEBRUARY 13 REMARKS BY PRESIDENT FORD.

4. EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THESE DEVELOPMENTS WAS RELATIVELY SPARSE. WRITING IN LEFT-LIBERAL CUMHURIYET, COLUMNIST ALI SIRMEN SAID THAT IN THE FACE OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOT DELCARATION IT IS UNTHINKABLE THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS WOULD RESTORE AID TO TURKEY. THEREFORE, SAID SIRMEN, TURKEY MUST SECURE SUPPORT FROM THE "THIRD WORLD" AND SOCIALIST BLOC COUNTRIES BY ADOPTING AN ANTI-IMPERIALIST POLICY AND LEAVING THE WEST. FAR LEFT YENI ORTAM SAID THAT THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO, INTENDED TO PRESSURE TURKEY, HAS MANIFESTLY FAILED IN LIGHT OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOT DELCARATION. NOW, WARNED YENI ORTAM, TURKEY WILL BECOME THE TARGET OF ALL THE TRICKS IN UNCLE SAM'S BAG.

5. IN OTHER EDITORIAL COMMENT, YASAR AYSEV, THE EDITOR OF PRO-RPP BARIS, DECLARED THAT EMBARGOES ARE DIRECTED AGAINST ENEMIES, NOT FRIENDS. AMERICA, HE SAID, HAD RETURNED TURKEY'S FRIENDSHIP WITH ENMITY AND DECLARED THAT AMERICA CAN NO LONGER DISTINGUISH BETWEEN FRIEND AND FOE.
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